

Message Text

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USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 3069

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR YO NK

SUBJ: GOY BRIEFING ON KIM IL SUNG VISIT

REF: BELGRADE 2972

SUMMARY: AT YUGOSLAV INITIATIVE FSFA ASST SECRETARY BRIEFED
AMB ON VISIT OF KIM IL SUNG AND OTHER RECENT STATE VISITS. KIM
WAS PORTRAYED AS DETERMINED TO PEACEFULLY UNIFY KOREA APPARENTLY
WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF UN AND OTHER MULTILATERAL FORA. YUGOSLAVS SAW
HIM AS REALISTIC MAN WHO RECOGNIZES DIFFERENCES BETWEEN VIETNAM
AND SOUTH KOREA AND DRAWS APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS. KIM'S
TOUR WAS SEEN AS A NORTH KOREAN OPENING TO WORLD AND NON-
ALIGNED TO "AVOID BEING PUT BETWEEN POWERFUL NEIGHBORS".
HIS VIEWS REGARDING WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT ACCORD WITH THOSE
OF YUGOSLAVS. BRIEFING WAS PERHAPS YUGOSLAV BID FOR
CONSULTATIONS WITH US ON IMPORTANT ISSUES AND MEANS TO
CONVEY KOREAN VIEWS TO U.S. END SUMMARY

1. ASST FONSEC KOMATINA (ASIA, AFRICA, LATIN

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AMERICA) CALLED AMB TO FOREIGN SECRETARIAT JUNE 16

FOR LENGTHY BRIEFING ON RECENT STATE VISITS (KIM IL SUNG, GREEK PREMIER CARAMANLIS AND EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT). FOLLOWING REPORTS PORTION KIM VISIT, OTHER SUBJECTS COVERED IN COVERSATION REPORTEDLY BY SEPTEL.

2. KOMATINA CANDIDLY NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH KIM WAS INVITED TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA SOMETIME BACK THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION REGARDING HIS ITINERARY AND VISIT CAME OFF WITHOUT MUCH ADVANCE PLANNING. SUGGESTING POSSIBLE PURPOSE FOR VISIT, KOMATINA STATED KIM HAD DETERMINED THAT KOREA SHOULD FOLLOW A POLICY OF INDEPENDENCE. IN FACT, ENSURING THE INDEPENDENCE OF NORTH KOREA AS AN "ISLAND IN THE SOCIALIST WORLD" HAD BECOME AN OBSESSION WITH KIM. KIM HAD SOUGHT AN OPENING TO THE WORLD AND ASSOCIATION WITH NON-ALIGNMENT TO "AVOID BEING PUT BETWEEN POWERFUL NEIGHBORS". KOREAN VIEWS ON THE WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT ACCORD WITH YUGOSLAV VIEWS, KOMATINA ADDED. BOTH COUNTRIES REJECT THE NOTION OF INTERNATIONAL CENTERS OF CONTROL.

3. REFERRING OCCASIONALLY TO INFORMAL NOTES, KOMATINA SAID KIM IS DETERMINED NOT TO LET THE IDEA OF KOREAN UNIFICATION DIE NOR TO ABANDON EFFORTS TOWARD ITS REALIZATION. KIM SEES IN THE GERMAN DEVELOPMENT OF TWO STATES THE DANGER OF WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF UNIFICATION IS NOT KEPT ALIVE. BUT, KOMATINA NOTED, KIM VIEWS THE SITUATION IN KOREA AS BASICALLY DIFFERENT FROM VIETNAM, AND HE SPEAKS OF UNIFICATION AS A PEACEFUL PROCESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS WELL-KNOWN THREE PRINCIPLES AND FIVE POINTS. (KOMATINA OBSERVED THAT KOREANS ALWAYS SPEAK IN SYMBOLS).

4. THE AMB ASKED KOMATINA HOW KIM DIFFERENTIATED THE SITUATIONS IN KOREA AND VIETNAM. KOMATINA SAID KIM WAS VERY OPEN ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES, WHICH HE ENUMERATED AS FOLLOWS: IN SOUTH VIETNAM THE FIGHTING HAD BEEN CONTINUOUS AGAINST THE FRENCH AND AMERICANS, THUS THE VIETNAMESE HAD TRANSFORMED THEIR "REVOLUTION" INTO A NATIONAL LIBERATION WAR, AND THAT IS ALWAYS SUCCESSFUL. UNLIKE THEIR FEELINGS TOWARD VIETNAM, AMERICANS DO NOT QUESTION THE US PRESENCE AND COMMITMENTS IN SOUTH KOREA. THE US WOULD, THEREFORE, REACT DIFFERENTLY TO A SUDDEN OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES IN SOUTH KOREA THAN IT HAD IN VIETNAM. THERE ARE ALSO DIFFERENCES IN TERRAIN THAT WOULD MAKE A VIETNAM-CONFIDENTIAL

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STYLE GUERRILLA ACTION IMPOSSIBLE. KOMATINA ADDED THAT, ALTHOUGH KIM WOULD NEVER SAY SO OPENLY, HE HAD IMPLIED THAT THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVT IS ALSO BETTER ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE THAN THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVT HAD BEEN.

5. KOMATINA DESCRIBED KIM AS REALISTIC BUT IMPATIENT, A MAN WHO IS GETTING OLDER AND WHO WOULD LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH HIS OBJECTIVES. KOMATINA EXPECTED THAT KIM WILL STRIVE TO KEEP THE

IDEA OF KOREAN UNIFICATION ALIVE AT HOME AND ABROAD. THERE IS NO HINT THAT HE WILL ATTEMPT ANYTHING OUTSIDE THE UN OR OTHER MULTI-LATERAL FORA.

6. COMMENT: YUGOSLAVS DO NOT ORDINARILY OFFER CANDID BRIEFING OF THIS SORT. WHEN WE SEEK INFORMATION FROM THEM ON A HIGH-LEVEL VISIT WE OFTEN GET LITTLE MORE THAN A RE-RUN OF THE COMMUNIQUE. THIS MAY, THEREFORE, BE BID FOR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WIHT US ON HIGH-LEVEL VISITS AND OTHER IMPORTANT WOLD ISSUES. IN ANY EVENT THEY CLEARLY REALIZED WE WOULD BE INTENSELY INTERESTED IN KIMS'S INTENTIONS.
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